SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

LANSING, MICHIGAN

For Immediate Release Sen. Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) May 6, 2005 517/373-7346

Senate Panel Hears Call for Action on Video Game Legislation

DETROIT- This evening, public outcry was heard in support of Senate Democratic legislation that would prohibit the sale of adult-rated video games to underage children. Academic researchers, educators, parent groups, and law enforcement officials all urged Senate Democrats to continue their fight on behalf of Michigan's children.

"Children imitate the behaviors they see, and children deduce what is right and wrong from what they see," said Professor L. Rowell Huesmann, PhD. "As children observe more violence, imitate it, practice it, are rewarded for it, they become more tolerant of violence."

Professor Huesman, a professor of Psychology and Communications Studies at the University of Michigan, is regarded as one of the country's leading authorities on media violence. This evening's speakers all stressed the need for legislation that would assist parents in keeping harmful material out of the hands of children.

"I implore the Legislature to make sound decisions and to take action to protect our children," said Karen Herkimer of the Association for the Education of Young Children. "Our children are paying too high of a price."

"These games cause detrimental and irrefutable harm to our children," said Helen Moore with Black Parents for Quality Education. "Decency in all media sources has become an important and needed discussion..." added Richie Coleman of the Parents Television Council.

In testimony prepared exclusively for tonight's hearing in Detroit, the national parent group *Common Sense Media* stated, "We believe that children playing ultra violent video games are an important public health issue, and we believe Senate Bill No. 249 (authored by Sen. Hansen Clarke) is an important step to address this issue."

Representatives from the Wayne County Prosecutor and Sheriff's Offices were also on hand to express their support for the legislation being advanced by Senate Democrats.